

## CLAIMS

1. A sealant composition for filter element which is a sealant for forming a seal section on the top face and/or bottom of a cylindrical filter element having a chrysanthemum-like cross section formed by pleating a filter medium, the sealant composition comprising a photopolymerization initiator sensitive to light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer and an ethylenically double bond-containing compound and having photo-curing properties.

2. The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ethylenically double bond-containing compound is an acrylic compound having radical polymerizability.

3. The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 2, wherein a polyfunctional acrylic compound is compounded as the acrylic compound having radical polymerizability.

4. The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polyfunctional acrylic compound is compounded in an amount of 3 parts by weight or more to the total acrylic compounds.

5. The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in any one of claims 1-4, wherein addition amount of the photopolymerization initiator is 0.1-15 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the ethylenically double bond-containing compound.

6. The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the addition amount of the photopolymerization initiator is 0.1-10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the ethylenically double bond-containing compound.

7. The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in any one of claims 1-6, which has a viscosity before photo-curing of 800 mPa·s or more.

8. The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 7, which has a viscosity before photo-curing of 2,000 mPa·s or more.

9. A method of forming a seal section, which comprises filling the sealant composition for filter element as claimed in any one of claims 1-8 in a groove of a molding die comprising a material having permeability to light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer and a solubility parameter of 8.5 or lower, the groove being formed coincident with a seal section to be formed on the top face and/or bottom of a cylindrical filter element having a chrysanthemum-like cross section formed by pleating a filter medium; setting the molding die in a seal section-forming portion on the top face and/or bottom of the filter element such that the filled sealant composition can be laminated; and irradiating the molding die with light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer to cure the sealant composition by the light having transmitted through the molding die, thereby forming a seal section on the top face and/or bottom of the chrysanthemum-like cylindrical filter element.

10. The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 9, wherein the material of the molding die is polytetrafluoroethylene, ethylene fluoride-propylene copolymer resins, perfluoroalkoxy resins, polypropylene, or polyethylene.

11. The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 10, wherein the material of the molding die is polytetrafluoroethylene, ethylene fluoride-propylene copolymer resins, or perfluoroalkoxy resins

12. The method of forming a seal section as claimed in any one of claims 9-11, wherein the irradiation dose of light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer is 200 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> or more.

13. The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 12, wherein the irradiation dose of light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer is 500-10,000 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup>.